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MONTANA
FARM LABOR REPORT

1963

COMBINING - BILLINGS AREA

MONTANA
STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

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POTATO HARVEST - ANACONDA AREA

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PREPARED BY FARM LABOR SECTION
OF THE MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

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A DIVISION OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT
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TING CHERRIES WITH HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM - KALISPELL

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PART I
ANNUAL SUMMARY

PLANNING

A. Changes in Addministrative Organization

No changes were made in administrative organization except a cut in local office personnel due to a reduced budget. The O and M "plans of action" are prepared by each local office on a quarterly basis, thereby enabling each office to prepare pre-season plans thirty days prior to the seasonal activities.

B. Pre-Season and In-Season Meetings

State and local office Farm Placement personnel in previous years participated in growers' and processors' pre-season meetings. However, only state office personnel participated during the 1963 season.

Farm Placement personnel, as heretofore, continued to work throughout the year with county and state Extension Services, Montana State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation County Committees and local farm organizations.

C. Special arrangements for Recruitment are made in cooperation with other Government Agencies in other states.

Orders for sugar beet workers were placed in clearance with the state of Texas. In accordance with an agreement of several years, the Colorado Agency recruited workers in Texas for sugar companies in Montana.

A special program for youths was continued over the previous year in sugar beet activity. Crews were smaller and more streamlined. Average earnings were greater this year. The program was successful with some problems developing. The program is active in all agricultural reporting areas except the wheat area 9-27-04.

Indians from nearby reservations were recruited for the sweet corn and potato harvests.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Major changes in the agricultural economy which had an impact on employment were, first of all, an exceptionally good long growing season with sufficient moisture when needed and plenty of hot weather during the harvest with the exception of a drought area in the north central region. There was less turnover in the youth beet program, due to good fields. This was true of other workers. Crop production records were broken in eastern areas. One of the latest summers on record was recorded with no frost reported in most areas until late October, thus preventing any layoff's or delays due to weather. The year ended with stock being returned to winter ranges later than usual. Yields on grain and hay were above normal and required additional workers. One contrast continued for the third straight year where an area in the north central part of the state suffered a dry spell and storm damage. The general harvest of all crops were above average. Tonnage was up on sugar beets but down on sugar content due to unusual warm weather. Livestock conditions were good.

Hay and harvest hands were in demand but also were amply taken care of by recruitment. It was a banner year in farm employment much as was the previous year. However, a small decline of demands are noted throughout the state similar to the national decline.

There was no major changes in land utilization in 1963 brought about by participation in production and acreage control programs of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, now has expansion of urban development into rural areas caused large significant changes.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

A. Seasonal Hired Farm Workers

Due to excellent weather conditions, seasonal hired workers were close to the labor force of 1962. The largest demands were in wheat, other small grains, and hay harvests. Beet thinning and pulling of weeds was not handicapped by overgrowth as was previously. Most harvests were ahead of schedule. Some beet and potato harvests were voluntarily delayed because of warm weather. Nothing was damaged by frost and many areas noted an increase in farm employment.

Local labor is generally male, Caucasian, and operates machinery such as tractors, hay balers, trucks and small grain combines. They also perform non-agricultural work, as heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, and construction labor.

Females of Caucasian race work as ranch couples or singly as ranch cooks. Non-agricultural employment is generally as cook in a cafe or domestic work. In western Montana, housewives work in the small fruit and berry harvests.

High School youths of both sexes are recruited to hoe and thin sugar beets. Approximately 7,500 interstate male workers are employed in agricultural activities of small grains, haying, and livestock activities. They are of the Caucasian race, single, or unattached. These workers are mostly from California, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, and Colorado. They also perform non-agricultural work as truck drivers and construction laborers.

Approximately 2,400 interstate workers are employed in the hoeing and thinning of sugar beets. These workers are primarily family groups, and both sexes 14 years and older work. Their main occupation is that of a vegetable farm laborer. The majority of these workers are from Texas and are of Mexican descent.

Approximately 2,200 male, single, or unattached workers are from Mexico. Their occupation is sugar beet farmhand.

The most significant shortages of seasonal farm workers were in the thinning and hoeing of sugar beets. Mexican Nationals were used to supplement domestic workers. Domestic workers who were available for this activity were from the state of Texas.

Due to lack of pay commensurate with other work activities, lack of unemployment insurance, and excessive travel to reach certain areas in Montana, and the distance to subsequent jobs, Montana is unable to recruit sufficient domestic workers.

There were no significant surplus seasonal farm workers. The influx was normal; some shortages existed at times, but for no significant period of time.

B. Regular Hired Farm Workers

The livestock and dry land small grain activities are the major crops that employ regular hired farm workers. The general trend of employment for 1963 was above previous years. Due to exceptional weather conditions, agricultural activities prospered as a whole.

Mechanization is having its inroads and does decrease needs in some activities, such as mechanized feed lots, etc. However, better farming methods and scientific know-how is producing more from acreages.

Dry land and small grain farms continue to increase in size with the result that more farm machinery is being used. This is true especially in the eastern part of the state. Small acreages persist in western Montana. Many of the larger farms are maintaining large equipment and repair sheds, thus creating demands for skilled mechanical help and heavy machinery operators.

C. Food Processing Workers

Montana has insignificant food processing activities in relation to the general agricultural activities. Part-time workers are hired in the sugar processing areas and in one cannery area. These activities pose no employment problems since part-time workers and housewives are in ample supply.

IMPACT OF MECHANIZATION AND OTHER CHANGES IN PRODUCTION METHODS

A. The growing, care, and processing of sugar beets has been considered the main crop mechanized to the most significant degree in recent years. The harvest as heretofore mentioned in the previous report is about 100 per cent mechanized, and thinning around 45 per cent. Considerable care in the planting of the seeds is important for the subsequent use of mechanical thinners. Seeds of the monogerm type must be placed in the ground at a pre-determined depth and interval of space. The size of the beet seed and cells of the plate in the planter must match. The equipment is simple in construction and does not require specialized knowledge to repair. Weeds were burned by machine in one area during the 1963 season.

In recent years wheat farms have been reduced in number but have doubled in size. This has resulted in the use of larger mechanical equipment for soil preparation, seeding, and summer fallowing, and consequently caused a reduction in the man-hours of work for these activities. The hay pick-up baler and loader has become widely used in most areas of Montana.

Since crops in general were as productive in 1963 as in 1962, there were about the same labor requirements as the preceding year. A part of this, however, was due to mechanization. It appears mechanization will be eliminating many hundreds in the next four or five years should the present advancement in machinery accelerate as it has been. It is anticipated that the hoeing and thinning of sugar beets will be eliminated in the above-mentioned period. In fact, much thinning has been eliminated so far. Through the use of the monogerm seed, space planting could eventually become a reality, and further developments in the use of herbicides for positive weed control would eliminate any need for hand labor. The workers affected would be the domestic migrant composed of family groups of all ages and sexes. This would also eliminate the need for Mexican Nationals. Local youth, too, would be affected.

B. Regular Hired Farm Workers

It is becoming increasingly necessary that regular farm workers acquire skills in the operation and repair of farm equipment which requires advanced knowledge of operation and repair. Employers expect them to be skilled in operating and repairing the larger tractors and other machinery used in seeding, cultivating, spraying, and harvesting. While most regular workers have these skills, it does require that the new entrant into this work possess higher mechanical skills.

RECRUITMENT OF FARM WORKERS

A. Radio, television, newspaper publicity, letters, and posters were utilized by the local offices to obtain the maximum supply of local seasonal farm workers. Excellent results were obtained.

Six local offices conducted school registrations to recruit youth for work in sugar beets. During 1964, this technique and program will be used in all nine beet area offices; but plans are being formulated to streamline the program and eliminate, as far as possible, the problems which to some extent hampered the 1963 program.

Volunteer Farm Placement Representatives were used in each local office area. Where possible, VFPR's made placements from local sources, or transmitted unfilled orders to local offices for action. Farmers and ranchers were advised of their local VFPR through local newspapers, radio, posters, and by direct promotional mail from the local offices. While all VFPR's were not 100 per cent effective, it is planned to continue this activity in 1964.

As heretofore, the local labor supply was not sufficient to meet the demand for regular hired farm workers. Inter-office clearance was used for some occupations.

B. Montana Participated in the Annual Worker Plan

As an order-holding state, Montana received 387 scheduled crews and family heads involving 2,426 workers. On the basis of actual contacts with the crews and examination of the ES-369's, the services rendered are reflected in Table 4 of this report.

C. Montana recruited no Puerto Ricans; however, a small crew of Puerto Ricans are hired in the Dillon area each year through private sources.

D. Housing

One hundred sixty six housing inspections were made. These cannot, however, be directly related to interstate recruitment. This is due to the fact that when inspections are made prior to occupancy, and until domestic recruitment is completed, it is not possible to determine whether housing will be occupied by domestic families or groups of single foreign workers. All housing is basically family type, on farm, necessitating a dual determination of suitability.

All agency inspections are made as a part of the regular program of field visiting. About 1,350 housing units are occupied at some time during the eight-week period that migratory labor is employed in large numbers.

State housing regulations are under the administration of the State Board of Health, Division of Environmental Sanitation. That agency limits participation in inspection, but the Department is ready to investigate complaints and does test water sources.

No difficulties have been encountered in arranging cooperation. There has not been any instance when, after attempts to secure improvement or unsatisfactory housing by other means, the State Board of Health has not taken appropriate action.

E. Wages

Periodic wage field surveys were made, along with regular employer contacts. Domestic migrant workers are recruited for spring beet work. Minimum wage rates per acre are fixed by public hearing. Since there is no comparable activity before or during the period of recruitment, field surveys were made during the working period.

The wage rate per acre system of renumeration causes wage survey difficulties above those found in most piece rate surveys. Field surveys were supplemented by examiniation of payroll records of growers and local office orders.

F. Foreign Workers

Mexican National workers were brought in to supplement domestic workers in the sugar beet pre-harvest activities only. Most of the Mexican Nationals were used between May 10th and July 15th. The peak employment was on June 15th.

There were no organizational, administrative, or procedural changes, or special programs developed with respect to the use of Mexican Nationals. No problems were encountered except for one wage scale investigation which proved satisfactory.

In the pre-season process of surveying the expected supply and demand for seasonal farm labor, each local office considers trends in production, employment, the labor market, mechanization, and other factors expected to influence the requirements and supply of labor. Local office records, such as agricultural orders, ES-223 In-season Farm Labor Reports, and other records are utilized. Contacts are made with grower associations, processors, county agents, and other government agencies interested in agriculture.

Periodic wage surveys were made. The surveys were made in the field while the work was being performed. Wage rates paid contract Mexican Nationals were not included in the survey data. Local offices posted "Notices of Prevailing Wage Rates" in Post Offices and other public places in the area of jurisdiction where foreign workers were employed. The wage survey findings equaled or exceeded the U.S.D.A. rate of fair and reasonable wages.

AREA REDEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Lake, Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Granite, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Park, Musselshell, Ravalli, and Carbon Counties are the rural development areas under the Area Redevelopment Act during the calendar year 1963. All seven Indian Reservations in the state are also included. The Montana State Employment Service assisted with community and reservation committees in developing an Overall Economic Development Plan. The plan was approved during 1962. The Montana Agency participated in special surveys of underemployment and unemployment in rural areas, as well as provided routine employment data to be used in economic plans for rural development. A training program for farm hands has been active on the Crow Indian Reservation and for farm managers on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

There were no problems related to housing, transportation, wages, health and medical facilities, or food which have interfered with recruitment and placement of local or migratory workers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

State and local office personnel participated in farm organization meetings, Chamber of Commerce, civic groups, and public schools to strengthen public understanding of the Agency's Farm Placement Program. Generally, the method is roundtable or informal discussion from the floor.

Newspaper, radio, and television is used to disseminate farm labor market information. All local offices regularly prepare news releases designed for listener and reader appeal.

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Placement totals decreased from the preceding year, although moisture, growing and harvesting conditions were very good, especially in the eastern part of the State where yield records were broken. This decrease was due to loss of cherry crops in Polson and Kalispell decrease of youth beet program and labor saving mechanization experienced throughout the nation. Activities, especially in livestock, grain farming and haying were up from the previous year.

The "Youth in Sugar Beet Program" was decreased due to resistance of youth workers to wages paid plus grower and processor resistance in certain areas. Six of the nine sugar beet areas had a youth program. The use of supplemental foreign labor was not reduced to a significant extent as growing and crop conditions were very good. As problems are solved, it is expected mechanization and domestics can and will replace the foreign labor program.

Every effort will be made to fully utilize local sources of labor, particularly in counties designated for rural development under the Area Redevelopment Act.

PART II
OUTLOOK FOR COMING YEAR

STATE FORECAST

The outlook on agricultural employment for Montana in 1964 is that employment is expected to be on par with 1963, pending similar weather conditions. However, since 1963 was a record moisture year, it could be that employment will decline perhaps to the extent of several hundred workers. Should moisture be sufficient, employment should not change to a significant degree. With usual winter conditions, the later part of the year, some pickup should occur in feeding operations.

AREA FORECAST
AREA 9-27.01

Western Fruit & Sugar Beets

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-27-01, Western Fruit and Sugar Beets (Flathead, Lake, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Meagher Counties).

The farm labor outlook for the coming year should be the same as for 1963, provided weather conditions are similar. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities except sugar beet thinning and hoeing. Sugar beet acreage should be approximately the same, with some adjustments for youth crews which will be used to supplement the local and migratory workers. The exception would be that a normal cherry crop is expected with hopes of no freeze distruction as was experienced in 1963.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Soil preparation and seeding	April - May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May - August
Haying	June September
Irrigating	May - August
Small fruit harvest	July - August
Small grain harvest	August
Potato harvest	September
Sugar beet harvest	September - October
Livestock seasonal activities	January - December

AREA 9-27.02

Southern Sugar Beets

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-27.02, Southern Sugar Beet (Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Yellowstone, Treasure, Carbon, and Big Horn Counties).

Again the weater will be the deciding factor. It is expected labor requirements will be near those of 1963. The supply and demand for labor in irrigated activites will be approximately the same as last year. Local and migratory labor is expected to meet demands in all activities except sugar beets. A portion of the demand will be met through youth groups in the thinning, hoeing, and weeding of sugar beets. Migrant domestic workers will be available for other states following the completion of thinning and hoeing of sugar beets in July.

The activities and approximate time periods involved:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved:
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April - May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May 15 - July 31
Haying	June - August
Irrigation	June - September
Fallowing	May - August
Small grain harvest	July - August
Sweet corn harvest	August 15 - September 15
Field corn harvest	August
Sugar beet harvest	September - October
Livestock seasonal activities	January - December

AREA 9-27.03

Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-27.03, Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain (Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Rosebud, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, and Carter Counties).

Should moisture content repeat that of 1963, employment requirements should be the same except there will be some adjustment on sugar beet acreages in the youth program. In irrigated areas there is little anticipated change. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities except sugar beets.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April - May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May - July
Haying	June - August
Irrigation	June - September
Fallowing	May - August

Small grain harvest	July - August
Sugar beet harvest	September - October
Livestock seasonal activities	January - December

AREA - 9-27.04

Triangle and Highline Hardwheat

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-27.04, Triangle and Highline Hard Wheat (Teton, Choteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Roosevelt, and Sheridan Counties.)

This is primarily a dryland wheat growing and livestock area. Should sufficient moisture be received as in 1963, the upsurge in employment will repeat. However, a dry year could make a difference. It is anticipated that local workers and voluntary in-migration of interstate workers will satisfy all demands for this area's activities.

It appears that the sugar beet acreage and the demand for labor will be the same as 1963.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April - May
Sugar beet thinning and hoeing	May - June
Haying	June - August
Irrigation	June - August
Small grain harvest	July - August
Fallowing	May - September
Sugar beet harvest	October
Livestock seasonal activities	January - December

Youth Beet Crews

Missoula - Sidney & Billings areas.

Table 1. Selected Data on Farm Placement Operations in 1963

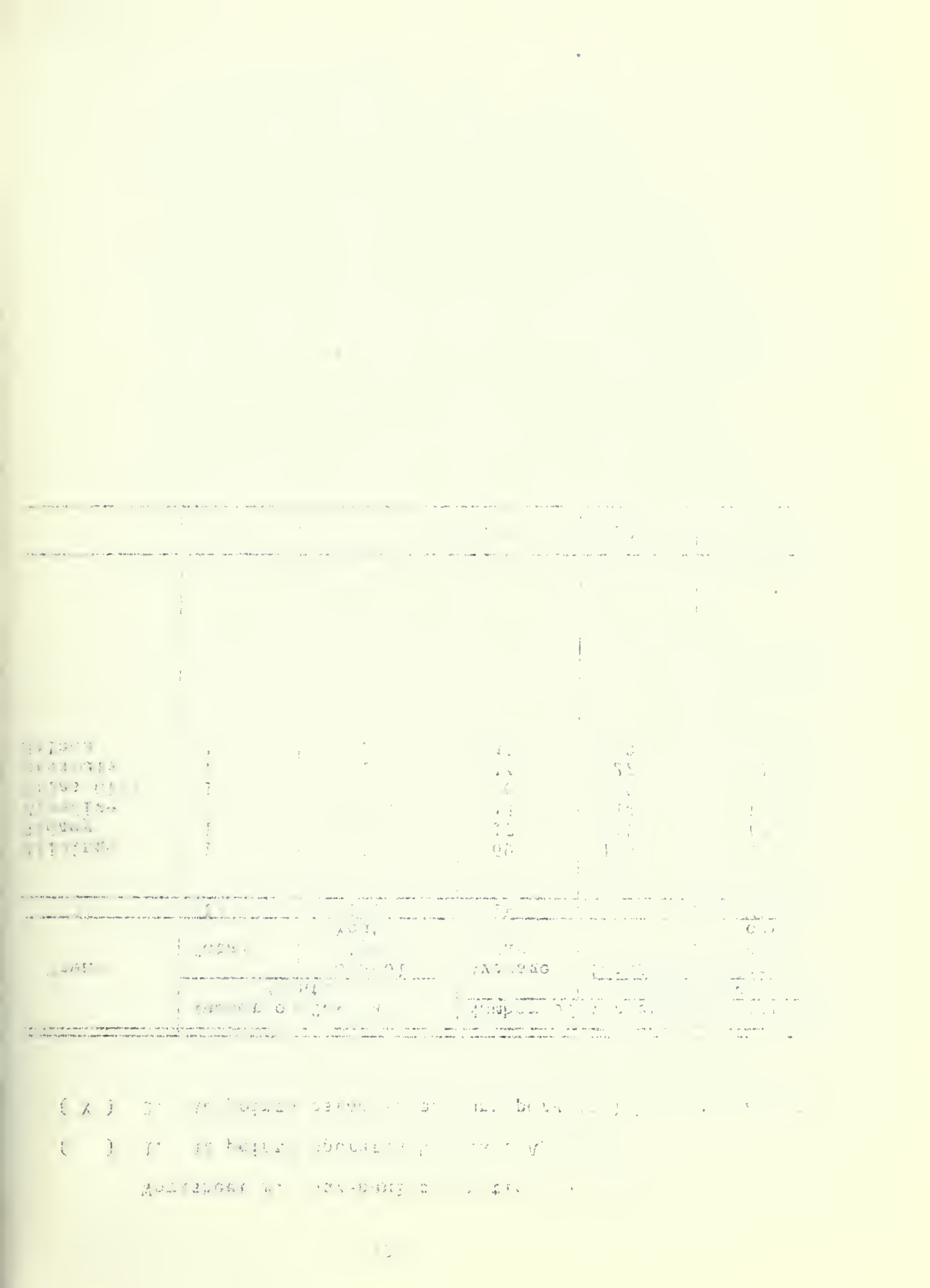
	Section A. Day-Haul Activities	
1	Operated by State agency:	
	a. Day-haul points	0
	b. Towns with day-haul points	0
	c. Sum of workers transported on average day in each town	0
	d. Sum of workers transported on peak day in each town	0
2	Established (unsupervised by State agency):	
	a. Day-haul points	0
	b. Towns with day-haul points	0
	c. Sum of workers transported on average day in each town	0
	d. Sum of workers transported on peak day in each town	0
	Section B. Services to School age Youth	
3	Towns in which separate school age youth programs are operated	6
4	Day-haul points operated separately for school age youth	6
	a. Placements	143
	b. Applicant holding acceptances	0
5	Day-haul points established by State agency for school age youth	0
6	Supervised camps operated for school age farm workers	0
	a. Placements in camp	0
7	Placements of school age youth in supervised live-in farm homes	
	Section C. Services to other special groups	
8	Services rendered to Indians by local offices or itinerant points on reservations:	
	a. Placements	1735
	b. Applicant holding acceptances	280
9	Other placements of reservation Indians	876
10	Puerto Ricans brought into State under work contract	0
	Section D. Special services to employers	
11	Employers receiving combine services:	
	a. From out-of-area	153
	b. From out-of-state	712
12	Employers receiving cotton-harvesting-machine services:	
	a. From out-of-area	0
	b. From out-of-state	0
13	Food processing employers receiving placement services	7
	Section E. Other special services	
14	Local offices which held farm clinics	0
15	Days on which farm clinics were held	0
16	Issues of farm labor bulletins published	26
	a. Copies distributed	12,000
17	State agency's work guides distributed	450
	a. Within reporting State	225
	b. To other States	225
18	Local offices participating in formal community service programs	63
19	Volunteer farm placement representatives	143

Worksheet A. Day-haul activities, by town

( ) 1. At points operated by State Agency

(X) 2. At points established (unsupervised) by State Agency

Towns	Number of Day-Haul Points		Number of Workers Transported		
				Peak Day	
	Total	School Age Youth	Average Day	Total	School Age Youth
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Billings	1	1	69	130	130
Sidney	1	1	17	17	17
Glendive	1	1	14	14	14
Miles City	1	1	6	6	6
Missoula	1	1	14	22	22
Helena	1	1	40	40	40
			160	229	229



. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
rau of Employment Security
-25 - Table 4 (12/61)

Budget Bureau No. 44-R779.6
State MONTANA

Table 4. Interstate Agricultural Migrant Activities in 1963

Section A	Migrant contacts	
Type	By Reporting State	With Reporting State's Residents
I	II	III
Total	387	0
1. Crew Leaders	132	0
2. Family Heads	253	0
3. Other	2	0

Section B Individuals represented	
Age and Sex	In Sec. A., Col. III
I	II
2. Total	2426
a. Male, 16 & over	1006
b. Female, 16 & over	629
3. Under 16	791

Section C Worker Characteristics	
Type	Number
I	II
Families	537
Unattached males	262
Unattached females	42

Section D. Services rendered	
Type	Number
I	II
7. Total	387
a. Schedules by ES	272
b. Requests for actio	0
c. Other services	0
d. Validations	95
e. Information only	20

Section E. Summary of migratory movement by State
NOT APPLICABLE

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
u of Employment Security
ES-225 - Table 5 (1/59)

Budget Bureau No. 44-R779.7

State MONTANA

Table 5. Interstate Seasonal Agricultural Clearance Activities in 1963

Item	Orders		Openings	
	Extended (sec. A) Received (sec. B)	Filled	Extended (sec. A) Received (sec. B)	Filled
I	II	III	IV	V
Section A. Reporting State as Order-Holding State				
Reporting State, total....	8	2	5117	2466
Applicant-holding States involved:				
Texas	6	2	5063	2466
Washington	1	0	50	0
Idaho-Washington-North Dakota-South Dakota- Wyoming-Colorado-Utah-New Mexico	1	0	4	0
Section B. Reporting State as Applicant-Holding State				
Reporting State, total...	4	0	362	0
Order-holding States involved:				
Colorado	1	0	250	0
Indiana	1	0	12	0
South Dakota	1	0	50	0
Utah	1	0	50	0

Signature Jess C. Fletcher

Jess C. Fletcher, Director
Montana State Employment Service

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION - 1963

LARGE SUGAR BEET CROP - Montana's sugar beet production is estimated at 1,056,000 tons on the basis of November 1st reports from growers. This is the largest crop since 1940. It is 10% above the October 1st forecast and compares with 838,000 tons produced last year. An unusually long growing season promoted sizing of beets this year and the average yield of 16.5 tons per acre is the largest ever attained by growers in this state.

POTATO PRODUCTION ALSO ABOVE LAST YEAR - The 1963 potato crop of 1,382,000 cwt is 11% above last year and 8% above the 1957-61 average.

DRYBEAN OUTPUT ABOVE AVERAGE - Dry bean production is expected to total 234,000 cwt compared to 225,000 in 1963 and 216,000 for the five year average. Nearly ideal weather prevailed during the harvesting season and quality of the beans is very good.

LARGER CORN CROP - Production of corn for grain is estimated at 240,000 bushels, one-fifth above the 1962 total and a fourth more than average.

APPLE CROP ABOVE LAST YEAR - Apple production is expected to total 40,000 bushels this year. This is 15,000 more than last year but 2,000 bushels below the five-year average.

MEAT PRODUCTION UP 17 PERCENT FROM YEAR AGO. RECORD HONEY CROP. NEAR RECORD ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION GRAIN STOCKS 5 PERCENT MORE THAN YEAR EARLIER RANGE FEED ABOVE AVERAGE.

Courtesy of Statistical
Reporting Service, USDA

Automation

Potato harvest

Hay harvest

Beet harvest

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Cherry Harvest, 1963, Montana

June 10, 1963

The following was received from the Kalispell, Montana Local Office which serves the cherry growing area.

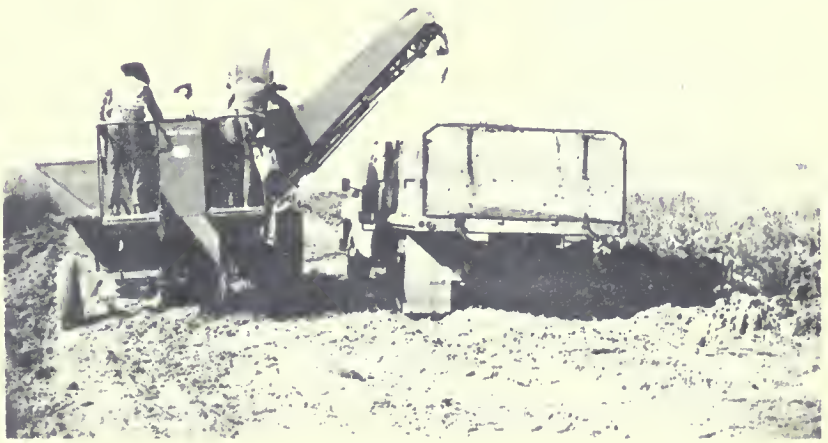
"From Yellow Bay north there is a 100% commercial loss with no cherries formed. From Yellow Bay to Blue Bay there will be several orchards with a 98% commercial loss. From Blue Bay to Finley Point most all orchards suffered a 100% loss. The loss was caused by the warm weather in December 1962 and a sudden freeze, with extreme cold weather in January 1963. There will be some tree loss and some spur damage, but it is too early to ascertain the actual percentage. Any picking to be done will be done by U-pickers or by local pickers. Warehouses for processing will for the most part remain closed but will process any cherries that are brought in, working on an hour-to-hour basis as the need arises.

"In view of the foregoing, it is suggested that pickers be discouraged from coming to this area. Undoubtedly there will be a few pickers come to the area; and, it is felt that with these people and local help any cherries that need harvesting can be taken care of."

(Prepared by the Montana State Employment Service)

The above photograph depicts usage of the potato harvesting machine in the Bozeman, Montana local office area.

To the right is mechanical beet harvesting in the Helena area.



Organize Youth Crews For Sugar Beet Work

Youth crews for sugar beet thinning and hoeing are now being organized to work in the Miles City area, C. R. Cunningham manager of The Montana State Employment Service Office announced today. "There are now 21 young men signed up for this work and we plan to use as many as 40," Cunningham said.

The youth of our community, the grower, and the community itself all benefit from this program, Cunningham pointed out. Young men, 14 years of age and over in need of a job will have an opportunity to work outdoors in a healthy, non-hazardous type of occupation that will keep them busy during the Summer months and provide them with a personal income. Growers will be provided with much needed help, and by employing local youth will not have to bear the cost of furnishing housing and recruiting. The community will benefit by having some of its youth employed in a healthy, gainful occupation, and the local economy will be given a boost through wages that will be spent locally.

Students May Sign For Beet Field Jobs

Signup starts Monday—blisters and dollars come later.

A pilot program of using high school students to hoe sugar beets which worked fairly successfully last summer will be expanded greatly this year.

The Montana Employment Service last summer kept a supervised crew of 20 high school students working during beet thinning in the Hardin a Some Billings students work. At least part of the season on an individual basis.

Farm Labor Service Offered

Ted Bebsock, manager of the State Employment Service at Great Falls, stated this week that with the advancing of the farming season, demands for experienced farm help has become quite prevalent throughout the area.

This has been especially noticeable in the Sun River Valley-Fairfield areas, with demands mostly for irrigators, tractor operators and general farm and ranch hands.

Lebsock stated that farmers and ranchers of the Fairfield community wishing to hire help in the near future should contact the office at 1000 First Avenue South or by calling 453-0351 in Great Falls.

GOOD SUNTAN CHANCE

Beet Work Employs 55

It has been a tough summer so far for the 55 Billings boys who joined the Montana State Employment Service beet work program. But it has been a rewarding one, too, MSES officials say.

Finding work for youth is getting to be more and more of a problem for MSES—and for employment services throughout the nation. Few jobs exist for people without skills. And most youth are not skilled.

Hoeing sugar beets in the hot sun is not skilled labor. It's just labor. It doesn't pay very well, and it's probably as hard as any work there is.

But the 55 Billings boys—most of them 14 or 15 years old—are doing the work. And they are doing it well, Ray Spiroff, MSES assistant manager in Billings, said.

They all work on farms within about a five-mile radius of Billings. Farmers pick them up in town and get them out to the fields in time to begin work at 6:30 a.m.

Sometimes they put in a full eight-hour day, sometimes they knock off early if the sun gets really hot.

Crews have from five to seven members, and farmers supervise them. Last year the crews were much larger, and each had a special supervisor hired by MSES.

"It works out better this way," Spiroff said.

He explained the small crews can easily be supervised by the farmers, and it saves the expense of a supervisor.

Money earned varies considerably, Spiroff said. Each boy is entirely on his own, and is paid according to the amount of work he does. Pay averages from $2 to $5 a day, but some boys have made as high as $8.

Because the beet season started earlier than usual this year, much of the work was done before the boys got out of school. The beet work is nearly done now. But many of the boys can put on bean hoeing jobs, Spiroff said.

Last year there were a number of problems with the sugar beet program. Several boys made less money than they had expected and their parents complained. MSES explained to the parents that it was entirely up to the boys how much they made. Spiroff added that no one had promised the boys more than a day's pay for a day's work.

"This year the program has been completely successful," Spiroff said. "We've had no complaints."

And, he added, the work hasn't hurt any of the boys. It keeps them outdoors and in good physical condition. It pays them something, at least.

It's a job. And jobs are getting to be hard to come by for the unskilled.

AND HEALTHFUL

Students Fared Well With Beet Work

Sidney youth finished beet work in record time this year, and several made good money, according to the Sidney Employment Service Office.

Howard Sarbu, local manager, said seventeen boys and girls from Sidney spent about two weeks thinning and hoeing beets on the Les Sorenson farm NE of Sidney. In the final summary of earnings there was a low of 35¢ to a high of $1.47 an hour with the majority of youth earning 75¢ to 85¢ an hour. This is the second year Sorenson has used high school youth.

The youth were paid on a piece rate basis, consequently their earnings corresponded with the amount of effort they put out.

This is the third year the Employment Service sponsored "Youth in Sugar Beet Work Program" has been in effect.

In 1961 a pilot program was started to test the feasibility of utilizing youth in sugar beet work. Although the pilot program was not entirely successful, it did prove that youth can do the job.

In 1962 more than 100 youth from Sidney and Fairview participated in the program. The program, however, was beset by heavy rains and excessive weed growth which plummeted earnings and dampened the youths' enthusiasm for beet work. As a result only a handfull signed up for work this year.

Sarbu said he believes more boys and girls will take an interest in the program next year when they learn how much the kids made this year.

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SOUTH CENTRAL

INGS: Activities, grain harvest, summer fallow, haying, irrigation. Short 2 married les $250-275 p/mo B&R and 2 single farm hands $175-200 p/mo B&R. Must have irrigation erience. Weather hot and dry.

INGSTON: Activities, haying, irrigating, and preliminary work prior to harvest of grain. pply of transient workers sufficient. Wages same.

ISTOWN: Activities, grain harvest, haying and summer fallow. No labor shortage. Wages e. Weather warm and dry.

EMAN: Winter wheat harvest underway. 50-60% crop reduction in most areas due to rust ection. Winter wheat harvest 15% complete. No calls for outside machines. Haying complete for first cut and second cut about 5%. Short 1 single sheepherder-must be erienced mountain herder. Wages $200 p/mo B&R. Permanent job. Short 4 single gen m hands for haying work - $1.25 p/hr to $10 p/da B&R. Temporary jobs. Weather hot & dry.

NORTH CENTRAL

BANK: Activities, harvest, haying, irrigating and summer fallow. Labor supply adequate. es same.

SGOW: Main activity is harvest of spring grains. Short 3 men for haying $10-12 p/da. ther clear and dry.

EAT FALLS: All activities progressing satisfactorily. Grain harvest 44% complete, second t 40% complete. Demand for harvest help for tractor-operators $8-10 p/da B&R. $15-20- da B&R for grain harvest help.

VRE Activities, summer fallow, haying, irrigation, and gen. farm work. Wages for mmer fallow, haying, and irrigation $8-10 p/da B&R. Gen farm work $175-200 p/mo B&R. cond cutting of alfalfa 50% complete. Labor supply adequate. Weather warm & dry.

ELBY: Very limited field activity. Mainly haying, summer fallow. No shortage of men.

LF POINT Activities, harvest, haying and summer fallow. Short 7 men for gen farm work 00-225 p/mo, jobs are for 2-3 months. Short 2 farm couples $250 p/mo year round.

EASTERN

LES CITY: Activities, haying, summer fallow, and irrigation. Weather hot and dry. Labor pply adequate.

ENDIVE: Activities, summer fallow, and hauling grain. Labor adequate. Wages $150-200 mo B&R.

DNEY: Activities combining, haying, corn silage preparation. Short 3 farm hands $175-200 mo B&R, and 2 married couples $250 p/mo B&R. Weather ideal for harvest, some storms.

Good housing for workers pays dividends. It attracts good workers and encourages them to stay until the job is done. It helps to insure that you will get your work done quickly and on schedule. It reduces labor turnover and loss of working time, also helps you to get good workers to come back again. Good housing certainly earns the increased respect of your workers, the people of your community and your Employment Service personnel.

The term "good housing" does not mean elaborate, well furnished dream homes, but it does mean clean, decent, comfortable living quarters - the kind of a place you yourself would like if you were one of the workers. The above illustrations of "good housing" is one reason why the Dick O'Day and George Gray farms in the Great Falls area repeatedly maintain the same year around and seasonal workers year after year.

FLEET OF COMBINES - GREAT FALLS AREA

SOIL PREPARATION - GREAT FALLS AREA